

***AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE &
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE AGRICULTURAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

FY 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



County of Monterey

Agricultural Commissioner's Office

1428 Abbott Street • Salinas, CA 93901

Annual Report Requirement – Pursuant to the Agricultural Advisory Committee Bylaws, Section 10, the Agricultural Advisory Committee shall submit this annual report to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in which the period of the annual report shall be of the previous fiscal year. The annual reports shall contain a summary of the Agricultural Advisory Committee’s activities and projects, a list of individual members, and any other information requested by the Board of Supervisors.

Committee Purpose & Members

Agricultural Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to advise and recommend to the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors and other county boards, commissions, and departments on matters affecting or of interest to the agricultural industry.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) consists of thirteen members who are residents of the County of Monterey and represent agricultural interests.

Committee Officers and Member’s Affiliation/Selection Information:

Between July 2023 – December 2023, Committee Officers were: ***Matt Shea, Chair*** and ***Dr. Alex Eastman, Vice Chair***.

Between January 2024 –June 2024, Committee Officers were: ***Scott Violini, Chair*** and ***Dr. Alex Eastman, Vice Chair***.

Supervisors’ Appointees

- Kurt Gollnick ~ District 1
- C.J. Miller ~ District 2
- Otto Kramm~ District 3
- Sherwood Darington ~ District 4
- * 7/23-12/23 Matt Shea ~ District 5
- * 1/24-6/24 Marc Del Piero ~ District 5

Agricultural Association Representatives

- Erik Heacox ~ Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
- VACANT ~ California Strawberry Commission
- Kevin Piearcy ~ Monterey County Farm Bureau
- Scott Storm ~ Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association
- Scott Violini ~ Monterey County Cattlemen’s Association

At-Large Members

- Mike Ferguson
- Alexandra Eastman, DVM
- Nick Huntington

Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee has the discretion to organize a subcommittee, also known as the *Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee*, for a specific purpose usually to work through policy options on any given land use project or program affecting agriculture. The purpose of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for a period longer than six months. Subcommittee members need not be Committee members nor equal as many as a quorum of the Committee.

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AACS) consists of seven members who are residents of the County of Monterey and represent agricultural interests.

During FY 2023-24 the Committee Officers were: **Scott Violini, Chair and Norm Groot, Vice-Chair**. A complete list of membership and their affiliations are described below:

Subcommittee Members

Scott Violini ~ Cattlemen's Association (2016)

Norm Groot ~ Monterey County Farm Bureau

Sherwood Darington ~ District 4 (2021)

Mike Ferguson ~ At-Large (2023) Monterey Botanicals

Kurt Gollnick ~ District 1 (2023) Scheid Vineyards

Marc Del Piero ~ Ag Land Trust

Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: August 14, 2023		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: May 26, 2022 – Meeting Minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passes to approve May 26, 2022, Minutes.
V. Agricultural Commissioner’s Update • Ag Pass – Granted 62 Ag Passes on June 5, 2023 to individuals that applied and qualified based on program criteria, and who successfully attended and completed the 4-hour Fire and Safety Training held in person on June 5, 2023	<i>Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager</i>	No action is necessary.
VI. Mo.Co. Housing and Community Development - Planning Ag Conservation Mitigation Program Planning File: REF220044	<i>Taylor Price, Assistant Planner</i>	Motion 1: Farmland Classification Categories- Support Option 1-A: No change to Farmland Category Definitions- Prime Farmland (includes FMMP category for Prime Farmland) and Important Farmland (Includes FMMP categories for Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance) was moved. Motion 2: Mitigation Ratios- Support Option 2-B: Mitigation Ratios Differ by FMMP Category- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outside of Community Areas and Rural Centers: Prime Farmland- 2:1; and Important Farmland 1.75:1 ▪ Inside Community Areas and Rural Centers: Prime Farmland- 1.5:1; and Important Farmland- 1.25:1 was moved. Motion 3: Final Recommendation- Support recommendation to bring forward a revised draft ordinance adding Chapter 21.92 to the Monterey County Code related to mitigation requirements for development on farmland was moved.
Public Comment	<i>Kathryn Avila, Chris Steinbruner, Taven Kinison Brown</i>	No action is necessary.
VII. Administrative Matters Departure of Julianna “Julie” De La Paz, Admin Secretary-Confidential with Ag Commissioner’s Office. Thank you for your service to the AAC and to the Ag Commissioner’s Office. Good luck in your	<i>Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager</i>	No action is necessary.

new employment with Supervisor Chris Lopez (District 3).		
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: <i>August 24, 2023</i>		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: A. June 22, 2023 – Meeting Minutes B. Approval of AAC/AAC Subcommittee Annual Report FY 2022-23	<i>Committee</i>	MOTION: Item A and B were moved and seconded by Committee Members Scott Violini and Nick Huntington and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
V. Agricultural Commissioner's Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monterey County Fair • 2022 Crop Report 	<i>Juan Hidalgo, Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.
VI. Mo.Co. Housing and Community Development – Planning A. Fernandez Bros. (Assurance Development/Vertical Bridge) Planning File No.: PLN220226	<i>Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner</i>	MOTION: Item A was moved and seconded by Committee Members Scott Violini and Alex Eastman and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
B. Monson and Humphrey Lot Line Adjustment Planning File No.: PLN230002	<i>Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner</i>	MOTION: Item B was moved and seconded by Committee Members Scott Violini and Kurt Gollnick and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
C. CV Vista Farms LLC and D'Arrigo Bros Co. – Lot line adjustment Planning File No.: PLN220367	<i>Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner</i>	MOTION: Item C was moved and seconded by Committee Members Erik Heacox and Alex Eastman and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
D. Project Title: Pedrazzi Standard Subdivision Map Planning File No.: PLN210158	<i>Fionna Jenson, Senior Planner</i>	MOTION: Item D was moved and seconded by Committee Members Erik Heacox and Kurt Gollnick and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
E. Project Title: ABALONE CREEK ESTATES LLC Planning File No.: PLN210202	<i>Fionna Jenson, Senior Planner</i>	No Motion: The AAC COMMITTEE found item E to be consistent with the Williamson Act. *Scott Violini recused himself from this item due to conflict of interest.
Public Comment	In Favor of Project: <i>Norm Groot, Farm Bureau David Haymore</i>	No action necessary.

	<p>Opposed to Project: Kathy Mendelsohn, <i>neighbor</i> Ben Schnore, <i>neighbor</i> Bob Burnham, <i>neighbor</i> Sue Burnham, <i>neighbor</i></p> <p>Mary Girardo Stan Hitchcock Karen Hitchcock</p>	
VII. Administrative Matters None		
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: <i>September 28, 2023</i>		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: A. Aug. 24, 2023 – Meeting Minutes	Committee	MOTION: Approval of minutes were moved and seconded by Committee Members CJ Miller and Mike Ferguson and failed by the following vote: AYES: Ferguson, Miller, Pearcy, Storm, Violini NOES: None ABSENT: Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Shea ABSTAIN: Darington
V. Agricultural Commissioner’s Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRA USA Event update – new technology in agriculture 	Juan Hidalgo, <i>Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.
VI. Mo Co Housing and Community Development - Planning A. ALDERETE RANCH LLC Planning File No.: PLN230032	Christina Vu, <i>Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item A was moved and seconded by Committee Members Kevin Pearcy and Alex Eastman and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	None	No action necessary.
B. COPPERHEAD CREEK LLC Planning File No.: PLN230078	Christina Vu, <i>Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item B was moved and seconded by Committee Members Alex Eastman and Mike Ferguson and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	None	No action necessary.
C. AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION MITIGATION PROGRAM – FARMLAND MITIGATION ORDINANCE Planning File No.: REF220044	Taylor Price, <i>Associate Planner</i>	MOTION 1: Add the Monterey County General Plan Agricultural and Winery Corridor Plan (AWCP) and those uses allowed and permitted under the AWCP to the list of exemptions in the Farmland Mitigation Ordinance (proposed Chapter 21.92 of the County’s Zoning Code); this motion was moved and seconded by Committee Members Scott Storm and Alex Eastman and passed by consensus. MOTION 2: Recommend approval of the draft Farmland Mitigation Ordinance as presented by HCD staff, subject to incorporating the added

		AWCP exemption Motion 1 above, and adding wording for the appraisal of land to have a timed term and also adding the County as a “qualifying entity” for administering of mitigation bank monies/sites in the event no “Qualifying Conservation Entity” is secured; this motion was moved and seconded by Committee Members Alex Eastman and Scott Storm and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>Taven Kinison-Brown, Mike Novo, Norm Groot</i>	No action is necessary.
VII. Administrative Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder of 2023 AAC dates: 10/26 and 11/16; no meeting in December. At the October 26 meeting, the AAC will consider the 2024 Williamson Act Applications- very important meeting and a quorum would be much appreciated. 	<i>Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager</i>	No action is necessary.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: <i>January 25, 2024</i>		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Aug. 24, 2023 – Meeting Minutes D. Sept. 28, 2023 – Meeting Minutes 	<i>Committee</i>	MOTION: Approval of minutes were moved and seconded by Committee Members Kurt Gollnick and Nick Huntington and passed by consensus.
V. Agricultural Commissioner’s Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUE – new regulations – DPR – will affect growers – fine amount increases. 	<i>Ken Allen, Chief Deputy Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.
VI. Mo Co Housing and Community Development - Planning A. AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION MITIGATION PROGRAM – FARMLAND MITIGATION ORDINANCE Planning File No.: REF220044	<i>Taylor Price, Associate Planner</i>	ACTION REQUESTED: Receive a written information update on the draft regulations based on the feedback received from the AAC on September 28, 2023.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
B. RIVER VIEW AT LAS PALMAS LLC- SUBDIVISION WITH AG BUFFER EASEMENT Planning File No.: PLN150372	<i>Zoe Zepp, Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item B was moved and seconded by Committee Members Marc Del Piero and Kurt Gollnick and passed by consensus to recommend support approval of the project, inclusive of the proposed 57-foot agricultural easement buffer:
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
C. KEITH AND MICHELLE DAY TRUST- COMPOST STORAGE SITE Planning File No.: PLN200247	<i>Christina Vu, Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item C was moved and seconded by Committee Members Kevin Pearcey and Scott Storm and passed by consensus.

Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
D. CASTROVILLE SELF STORAGE LLC Planning File No.: PLN220122	<i>Kayla Nelson,</i> <i>Associate Planner</i>	MOTION: AAC was in support of the proposed 32 foot agricultural easement buffer, however, Item D was moved and seconded by Committee Members Marc Del Piero and Chair Scott Violini and passed by consensus, recommending the item be postponed until the environmental analysis is completed and for the item to return to the AAC until HCD staff has research the following item of concern to the AAC: Castroville Community Plan flood access easement question (Tembladera Slough)
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action is necessary.
VII. Administrative Matters A. Discussion on Subcommittees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AAC was informed re: subcommittee meetings will no longer be scheduled until the AAC decides to convene a subcommittee meeting, in accordance with the AAC Bylaws. B. Discussion on AAC quorum and bylaws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nadia Ochoa emphasized to the AAC the significance of maintaining a quorum and informing the Ag Comm staff of their attendance prior to the AAC meetings. 	<i>Nadia Garcia,</i> <i>Ag Programs Manager</i>	No action is necessary.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: <i>April 25, 2024</i>		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: A. Jan. 25, 2024 – Meeting Minutes	<i>Committee</i>	MOTION: Approval of consent items moved and seconded by Committee Members Mark Del Piero and CJ Miller and passed by consensus.
V. Agricultural Commissioner's Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza in dairy cattle, 8 states reported. Influenza reported in birds, cows, and now humans. However, humans are showing mild symptoms. USDA new requirements in moving cattle into state. Border station checks. New restrictions, CDPR 	<i>Juan Hidalgo,</i> <i>Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.

VI. Mo Co Housing and Community Development - Planning A. MARINOVICH JEAN & BUTIER PETER Planning File No.: PLN210165	Zoe Zepp, <i>Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item VI.A was moved and seconded by Committee Members Marc Del Piero and Sherwood Darington and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.
B. VACATION RENTAL ORDINANCES-- WILLIAMSON ACT COMPATIBLE USES AMENDMENT Planning File No.: REF100042/REF130043	Taylor Price, <i>Associate Planner</i>	MOTION: Item VI. B was moved and seconded by Committee Members Alex Eastman and Marc Del Piero and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	Norm Groot	No action is necessary.
VII. Administrative Matters • Ag Commissioner Update	Juan Hidalgo, <i>Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Date: June 27, 2024		
Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
III. Consent: A. April 25, 2024 – Meeting Minutes	Committee	MOTION: Item III. A was approved by consensus and passed.
V. Agricultural Commissioner's Update • Salinas Biological Summit –held June 25-26 with a focus on new biological alternatives to control pests in agriculture. • DPR will be holding a public hearing on their proposed pesticide notification regulation on Friday, July 12 in Turlock. • Last summer California experienced an historical fruit fly outbreak in Southern California. Pest detection trapping programs are effective at quickly identifying invasive pests. No fruit flies were found in Monterey County last year.	Juan Hidalgo, <i>Ag Commissioner</i>	No action is necessary.
VI. Mo Co Housing and Community Development - Planning A. SINGLETON PROPERTIES LLC AND REYNOLDS LAND & CATTLE CO Planning File No.: PLN230230	Christina Vu, <i>Assistant Planner</i>	MOTION: Item VI.A was moved and seconded by Committee Members Kurt Gollnick and Erik Heacox and passed by consensus.
Public Comment	<i>None</i>	No action necessary.

<p>B. ABALONE CREEK ESTATES LLC Planning File No.: PLN210202</p>	<p><i>Fionna Jenson,</i> <i>Senior Planner</i></p>	<p>MOTION: Item VI. B was moved and seconded by Committee Members Kurt Gollnick and Scott Storm and passed by consensus. *Scott Violini recused himself from this item due to conflict of interest.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>In Favor of Project: <i>Steve Dorrance</i>, Neighbor <i>Bill Lipe</i>, Resident in Toro Area Plan</p> <p>Opposed to Project: <i>Kathy Mendelsohn</i>, neighbor <i>Lisa Stewart</i>, neighbor <i>Roberta Swenson</i>, neighbor <i>Ben Schnore</i>, neighbor <i>Bob Burnham</i>, neighbor <i>Sue Burnham</i>, neighbor</p>	<p>No action is necessary.</p>
<p>VII. Administrative Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder of AAC Vacancy- Strawberry Commission Representative 	<p><i>Nadia Garcia,</i> <i>Ag Programs Manager</i></p>	<p>No action is necessary.</p>